

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.     **(Previously Presented)**   A wet clutch friction plate for use with a clutch plate, the friction plate comprising:

        a core plate disposed opposite the clutch plate and rotatable relative to the clutch plate; and

        friction material bonded to a side face of the core plate and disposed between the clutch plate and the core plate,

        wherein a plurality of oil channels are defined in the friction material and provide communication between inner and outer peripheral edges of the friction material,

        wherein the plurality of oil channels include a plurality of discharge oil channels, each discharge oil channel having a discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) relative to a radial line (L) of the friction plate passing through an inner end of the discharge oil channel itself and which is are configured to discharge oil from an inner peripheral side to an outer peripheral side of the friction plate due to a screw pump action that occurs when the friction plate rotates relative to the clutch plate, and the plurality of oil channels further include a plurality of inflow oil channels, each inflow oil channel having an inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ) relative to the radial line (L) of the friction plate passing through an inner end of the inflow oil channel itself and which is configured to draw oil in from the outer peripheral side to the inner peripheral side of the friction plate due to the screw pump action that occurs when the friction plate rotates relative to the clutch plate, and

wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) inclines rearward relative to the radial line (L) and the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ) inclines forward relative to the radial line (L).

2.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 1, wherein the friction plate is divided into a plurality of regions (A) arranged in the peripheral direction, each region including a number of discharge and inflow oil channels that is equal to a number of discharge and inflow oil channels of the other regions.

3.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 2, wherein a triangular piece of the friction material is provided at a boundary defined between adjacent regions (A and A).

4.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 1, wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) is equal to the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ).

5.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 2, wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) is equal to the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ).

6.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 3, wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) is equal to the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ).

7.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 1, wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) is less than the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ).

8.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 2, wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) is less than the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ).

9.     **(Previously Presented)**   The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 3, wherein the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) is less than the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ).

10. **(Previously Presented)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 1, further comprising a central oil channel defined in the friction material, the central oil channel being positioned intermediate the discharge oil channels and the inflow oil channels, wherein the central oil channel is disposed along an associated radial line (L) of the friction plate.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of discharge oil channels are parallel relative to each other.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of inflow oil channels are parallel relative to each other.

13. **(New)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 2, wherein in each of said regions, the number of discharge oil channels is less than the number of inflow oil channels.

14. **(New)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 13, wherein in each of said regions, there is provided only one discharge oil channel

15. **(New)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 13, wherein in each of said regions, the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) of the discharge oil channel is smaller than the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ) of any of the inflow oil channels.

16. **(New)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 14 wherein in each of said regions, the discharge angle ( $\beta$ ) of the discharge oil channel is smaller than the inflow angle ( $\alpha$ ) of any of the inflow oil channels.

17. **(New)** The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 15, wherein the inflow angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the inflow oil channels are made different from one another and become smaller as they come closer to the discharge oil channel,

18. (**New**) The wet clutch friction plate according to claim 16, wherein the inflow angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the inflow oil channels are made different from one another and become smaller as they come closer to the discharge oil channel.